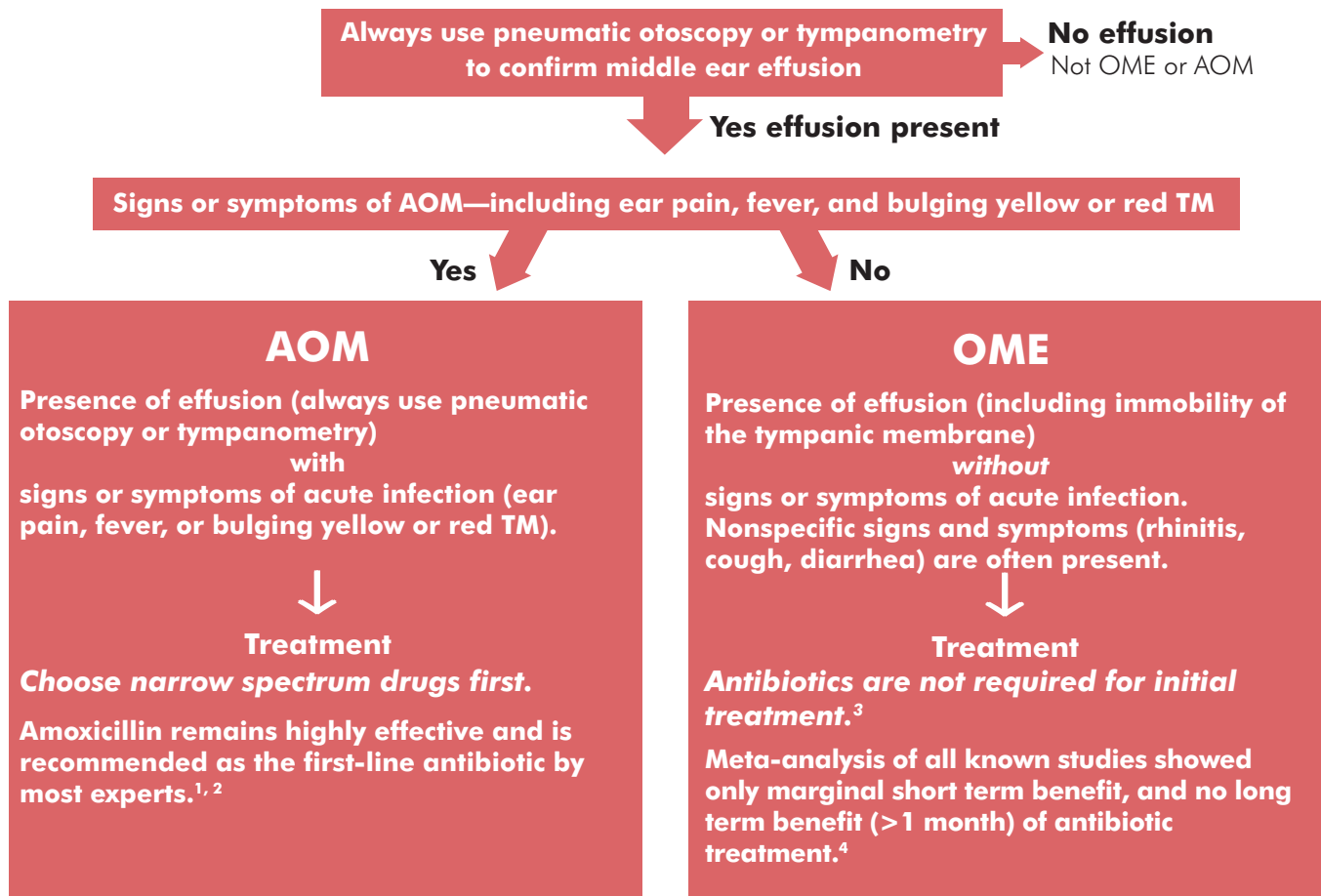


CAREFUL ANTIBIOTIC USE

Otitis media with effusion does not require antibiotic treatment

OTITIS MEDIA

**Differentiating Acute Otitis Media (AOM) from Otitis Media with Effusion (OME):
A tool for promoting judicious antibiotic use.**



Only consider antibiotic prophylaxis for recurrent AOM as defined by ≥ 3 distinct, well documented episodes in 6 months (or ≥ 4 in 12 months).

Residual effusion after AOM normally persists for up to 6 weeks - no evidence of benefit from treatment in these cases.

Share this algorithm with parents. Explain when the risks of using antibiotics outweigh the benefits.

Avoiding unnecessary treatment of OME would save up to 6 - 8 million courses of antibiotics each year.³

References

1. McCracken GH. Considerations in selecting an antibiotic for treatment of acute otitis media. *Pediatr Infect Dis J*. 1994;13:1054-1057.
2. Barnett ED, Klein JO. The problem of resistant bacteria for the management of acute otitis media. *Ped Clin N America* 1995;42:509-17
3. Stool SE, Berg AO, Berman S, et al. Otitis media with effusion in young children. Clinical practice guideline. AHCPR Publication no 94-0622 1994.
4. Williams RL, Chalmers TC, Stange KC, Chalmers FT, Bowlin SJ. Use of antibiotics in preventing recurrent acute otitis media and in treating otitis media with effusion. A meta-analytic attempt to resolve the brouhaha. *JAMA* 1993;270:1344-51.